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REMARKS**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

(1) On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,569,471 to Ingemansson ("the '471 Patent). The Examiner states "[a]fter the glass strands have been deposited into the outer cylinder, a cover plate is placed over the opening for transport (citation omitted). Accordingly, the cover plate is considered a closure."

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following remarks. Claim 15, as amended, recites "a container having a removable closure" and "a glass strand disposed in said container in a texturized, coiled form, wherein said glass strand can be withdrawn from said container for subsequent use when said closure is removed" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that the '471 Patent does not disclose or suggest either the "removable closure" or the ability of the strand to be "withdrawn from said container for subsequent use when the closure is removed." The invention of '471 Patent teaches a muffler and the closure referred to by the Examiner is a part of the muffler body rather than a "removable closure." Further, the glass strand from within a muffler cavity, as taught by the '471 Patent, would not be removable from the muffler for subsequent use.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation for one of skill in the art to arrive at the invention recited in claim 15 based on the teachings of the '471 Patent. Applicants submit that the examiner has given an "overbroad" definition to the terms in order to reach a finding of unpatentability. The words of the claim must be given their plain meaning. In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989); Chef America, Inc. v. Lamb-Weston, Inc., 358 F.3d 1371, 1372, 69 USPQ2d 1857 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (Ordinary, simple English words whose meaning is clear and unquestionable, absent any indication that their use in a particular context changes their meaning, are construed to mean exactly what they say.

The '471 Patent teaches a muffler for installation on a vehicle and there would be no reason to remove the glass fibers from the muffler or to use a removable closure. One of ordinary skill in the art simply would not be motivated to include a removable closure and the subsequent removal of the texturized strand from the container by reading the '471 Patent.

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The '471 Patent teaches the installation of the glass strand into a final product (a muffler), and there is no teaching or suggestion of removal of the texturized glass from the muffler for subsequent use. The recycling of glass strand from within a muffler, as suggested by the Examiner, would require melting and fiberizing the glass and thus does not provide motivation to modify the '471 Patent or provide any reasonable expectation of success. Therefore, Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

(2) On Pages 3-5 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 15-17 as being unpatentable in view of the '471 Patent and U.S. Patent No. 3,398,877 to Mattis ("the '877 Patent"). The '877 Patent discloses the storage of crimped polymer fibers that are "piddled" into a paperboard carton that is lined with a polymeric film liner (see Column 1, lines 25-27 and Column 2, 10-11). The crimped fibers are not texturized as recited in claim 15. The crimping process disclosed by the '877 Patent is a mechanical process that results in a fiber block having a density of at least 22 lbs/ft³ and preferably 25-35 lbs/ft³. In contrast, the present invention as recited in claim 15 provides a texturized fiber. As described by Applicants a texturized strand is "expanded by directing compressed air at the strand as it passes through a texturizer to separate the filaments in the strand. This concept is also referred to as 'texturizing' the strand." (See, Specification Page 4, lines 30-35). Applicants submit that prior to applicants invention it was not known to texturized glass fibers into an unsealed closure, such as a muffler to screen preform mold and therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the crimped polymer fiber package having a density of at least about 22 lbs/ft³ of the '877 Patent with the muffler filled with texturized glass fibers disclosed in the '471 Patent.

(3) On Pages 5-6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 18 as being unpatentable over the '471 Patent, in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,670,949 to Galanes ("the '949 Patent"). The '949 Patent is relied upon to teach a corrugated material suitable for use as a container. Applicants submit that the disclosure of a corrugated material does not correct the defects of the '471 Patent taken alone or in any proper combination of the prior art of record.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the present invention is not taught or suggested within the '471 Patent, the '877 Patent or the '949 Patent either alone or in any proper combination, and respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration.

If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this response, including any fee for a required extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for which Applicants hereby petition, please charge all necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: August 17, 2006

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